Expenditure on child development

1325. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the total amount spent on child development through various NGOs in the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Incentives for girl child

1326. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that girl child is still not the automatic choice of parents in the country;

(b) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken to adopt stick and carrot policy towards parents to ensure well being of girl child; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to prevent female foeticide and girl child discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in order to check female foeticide, implements the Prenatal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (amended in 2003). The Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus. Under the Act, use of Pre-natal diagnostic Techniques and genetic counseling is permissible for detection of genetic abnormalities. The violation of the Act is punishable with imprisonment upto 5 years and fine upto Rs. 1.00 lakh apart from cancallation of registration and license. Steps are also taken for creation of awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex through radio, television and print media units; constitution of a National Monitoring and Inspection Committee which has representatives from National Commission for Women and Ministry of Women and Child Development takes stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problem States; setting up of a National Surveillance Cell for effective implementation

of the Act; and sensitization of the Medical Community, Police and Training of Judiciary. In addition, other activities undertaken are sensitization of the organizations working against sex selection, involvement of the medical professionals, religious/spiritual leaders to spread the message.

The Working Group on 'Development of Children' for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) has been constituted by the Planning Commission in April, 2006. The deliberations of the Working Group will serve as an input into the Steering Committee Report of the Planning Commission. The recommendations of the Steering Committee would from the basis for the programmes and schemes for the girl child of the Ministry of Women and Child Development in Eleventh Plan.

Integrated Child Development Scheme

1327. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'Integrated Child Development Scheme' (ICDS) with allocation made and spent, number of beneficiary children for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether implementation of various welfare measures under the ICDS is not effective at the State level in the absence of proper monitoring system;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the level of malnutrition among the rural children has not declined despite claims of providing nutritious meal under the mid-day meal scheme; and

(e) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to ensure proper implementation of the ICDS, particularly the mid-day meal programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme was launched in 1975 in 33 Community Development Blocks. The Scheme was gradually expanded and today it covers 6118 blocks in the country including 4790 in rural areas, 805 in tribal areas and 523 in urban slums. The services provided